

Parkfield Ill
Decr 9 '54

My dear Mr Watson

At the time I had Mrs Austin's Willow from
Ariwa Co - th which I number -
under examination I thought
it might be what Bell
had intended as his L. stephensii
but give to the fact
that I was unable to verify
this I failed to see how it
could be clearly separated
from the typical L. Hessee -
L.D. of the first this unless
possibly by a greater constancy
of difference in the shape
of the leaves than the

specimens in hand seemed
to warrant and in this
Mr Cusicks specimens do not
help us out. I know it
seems like carrying matters
so far to lump this with
flaxes on the one hand
and grass Scouleriana on the
other - but I recall very
distinctly the absolute failure
of experience in attempting to
draw any lines down -
after the flax has been
thus numbered of numerous
feet. I intended expect-
ing to return to flax studies
so long but in abeyance
and I will not therefore

return from ticket till I
have free time the winter
again

I have a comforting
conviction so far as politics
is concerned and that is that
the great social and material
interests of the people will
the country. The politician is
a noisy fellow - very much
puffed up with a sense
of his immense importance
and Washington is not to this
writer's knowledge less so than is
to Great Britain - 322 1/2 in
lent ch. 1! On this account
I am not sorry to see a
change of administration if
only to convince people that
winter Washington's decision

are so absolutely dependent
upon acts of Congress -
as some people would have
us believe -

Yours very truly
W. L. Smith

Feb 18